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3 QUESTIONS WITH CAROLINE NEWHEISER

What do you see as some of the key issues facing women counselees today?

A number of issues come to mind. So many women come to the counseling office with poor theology and a lack of familiarity with the Bible. There is nothing more important than knowing God (Jn 17:3). God's character and actions are misunderstood which leads to poor decisions and actions on our part. There are many women who have yet to experience immersion in the Scripture. Also, women can isolate themselves. One-another care is lacking in so many

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churches. If there is a disconnect as well with the spiritual leaders in the congregation, women aren't getting the care they need (Heb 13:17a).

What do you enjoy most about your work as a counselor?

It is so rewarding to see the Holy Spirit work in the lives of women and children. It is a joy to watch people read the Scripture and apply it to their lives. What a confirmation of the power in the Word of God! Sometimes I listen to the person read the Scripture and just wait for her eyes to light up with

understanding. I also enjoy the spiritual benefits I gain from counseling. Hearing the words I say is a good reminder. Plus I grow in thankfulness for my husband!

How does your role as a woman intersect with being a counselor?

A woman who is learning compassion and sensitivity to others will become a better counselor. This love flows from our walk with the Lord (1 Jn 4:7-21). Many counselees approach counseling with the desire to be heard. Some have no wise person in their life who can both offer sympathy and hugs as well as speak truth (Pr 18:15). Some women are natural at "coming along-side" a suffering Christian. My experiences as a wife and mother add another dimension to counseling. After all, learning submission to a husband is good practice for submission to God's will in our lives!

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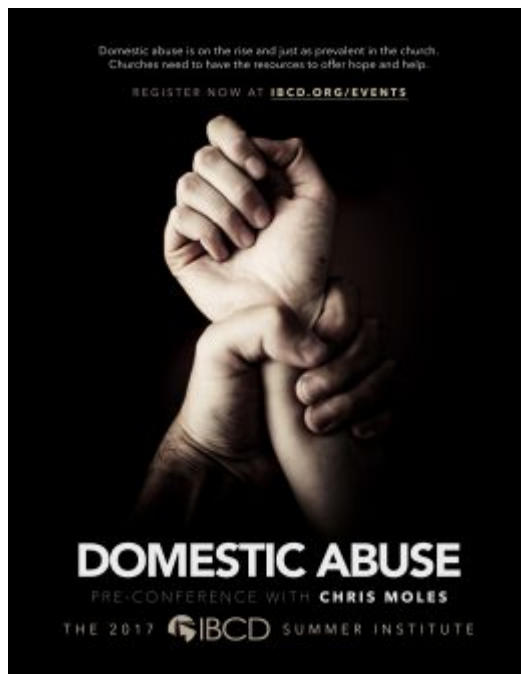
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